



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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**CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: September 24, 2013

Meeting Location: Office of the State Fire Marshal, Training Conference Room
1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Staff Present:

James Parsegian, Supervising DSFM, Chair
Ian Lyman, MST, BML Assistant Program Coordinator

Members Present:

*Tom Connaughton, Intertek-ETL
Rick Cortina, Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc.
Ronald Farr, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Regulatory Services
Bill Hopple, Hopple & Co.
Jay Levy, Hochiki America
*Rick Lewis, Rolf Jensen & Associates
*Richard Roberts, Honeywell Life Safety

Members Absent:

Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company
Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Ray Iverson, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department
Kenneth Quick, Culver City Fire Department
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Services
Patrick Ward, AON Fire Protection Engineering

Guests Present:

Rod Dumas
Gene Gantt, California State Firefighters' Association
Wendy Gifford
Al Ramirez, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Jennifer Snyder, Representing Kidde Safety

* *Via Conference Call*

I. CALL TO ORDER

James Parsegian called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS

Ian Lyman took a roll call. A quorum was soon established.

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III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the minutes of January 22, 2013. Rick Cortina made a motion to approve the minutes and Shane Clary seconded the motion. James Parsegian called for a vote and the minutes were approved unanimously as written. Richard Lewis made a motion to approve minutes, Jay Levy seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Update on Senate Bill (SB) 745 was made by James Parsegian. The bill passed the legislature, signed by Governor Brown and chaptered into law.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Proposed regulations regarding listing requirement of smoke alarms were previously distributed by Chief Ben Ho. The following addition to Title 19, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 208 (d) was reviewed:

(d) Smoke Alarms:

(1) Commencing July 1, 2014, all smoke alarms including combination smoke alarms, that are solely battery powered shall contain a nonreplaceable, nonremovable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years.

EXCEPTION: This section shall not apply to any smoke alarm or combination smoke alarm that has been ordered by, or are in the inventory of, an owner, managing agent, contractor, wholesaler, or retailer on or before July 1, 2014, until July 1, 2015.

(2) Commencing January 1, 2015 all smoke alarms or combination smoke alarms shall:

(A) Display the date of manufacture.

(B) Provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written. The date of installation shall be visible to the consumer without removing the alarm from its base or mounting bracket.

(C) Incorporate a hush feature.

EXCEPTIONS to (1) and (2) of the above:

(a) Smoke detectors intended to be used with a fire alarm or household fire alarm control unit.

(b) Smoke alarms that send a supervision and battery depletion signal to a fire alarm or household fire alarm control unit via a low power wireless communication signal.

(c) Smoke alarms that use low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal for interconnection.

There was no change with the proposed regulations and Richard Roberts motioned to approve the proposed regulations. Tom Connaughton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The proposed regulations language was approved.

VI. OPEN FORUM

- A) Rick Cortina brought up the subject of CI Cable.

- Chair James Parsegian indicated that the CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) had no new information concerning status of listing or availability of CI Cable.
- Rick Lewis noted the Tyco Multi-conductor MI Cable that is proposed to be used on some projects. He mentioned it runs for \$6.50 a linear foot.
- Rick Lewis heard the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 Committee made a motion to propose the change of survivability requirements to include a Class A Riser. Bill Hopple believed Rick Lewis to be correct.

B) Rick Lewis brought up confusion about the intent of Information Bulletin dated September 4, 2008 concerning Fire Alarm Control Unit Replacement in Existing Buildings. He noted local jurisdictions had varied interpretations of the intent of the bulletin, in which replacement of alarm

- Rick Lewis noted sections and exceptions under the 2010 California Building Code, Visual Alarms 907.6.2.3, and said there's an implication that the bulletin is null and void if you do anything to the fire alarm system. He requested that OSFM review the bulletin to see if it is still in effect and whether it applies after a new code adoption cycle that has taken place. He noted IBC commentary concerning the exceptions, as well.
- Rick Cortina said the intent of the bulletin was meant to allow a one for one alarm component replacement instead of requiring upgrading the whole building's alarm system.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- ➔ Chair James Parsegian will take this matter (Information Bulletin dated September 4, 2008 concerning Fire Alarm Control Unit Replacement in Existing Buildings) to the Codes Development and Analysis Division for further review and discussion.
- Chair James Parsegian noted he also will ask about the outdated Information Bulletins on the OSFM website that are no longer applied to current code.
- Any roster updates need to be returned to Ian Lyman.

VII. NEXT MEETING

- A meeting date for February 5, 2013 in Palm Springs was proposed to coincide with the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA) Annual Conference that is scheduled for February 6 & 7, 2014. A conference line and GoTo Meeting will be available for this meeting. A confirmed date, time, and location will be posted and distributed well in advance, preferably before November 2013.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned by Chair James Parsegian, at 10:42 A.M.

Meeting Minutes Developed by:
 Ian Lyman, BML Assistant Program Coordinator
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